

Serial No.: 10/626,253

Amdt. Dated: July 13, 2005

RD28667-3

Reply to Office action of May 13, 2005.

REMARKS

In the office action mailed May 13, 2005 the Examiner allowed claims 32-39 and rejected claims 40-44. The May 13, 2005 Office action has been carefully considered. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 USC § 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 40-41 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Hwang et al. (U.S. Patent 6,383,953; hereinafter called "Hwang"). The rejection of claims 40-41 and 44 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 40 has been amended to recite, "... wherein said common reactant gas injector comprising a tubular -walled structure having two linear portions parallel to each other and two end portions connecting the linear portions is disposed between anodes of the plasma sources and the substrate and is circumferentially disposed with respect to the plasma sources...".

The Applicant respectfully submits that, especially as amended, claim 40 recites patentable subject matter over Hwang et al. Hwang et al. cannot be read to anticipate the subject matter of currently amended claim 40. Applicant therefore submits that since amended claim 40 recites patentable subject matter, all claims dependent from it are likewise allowable. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 40-41 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 44 has been amended to recite, "...wherein ratio of standard deviation of coating thickness to mean coating thickness at locations between the plasma sources is less than about 5%...".

The Applicant respectfully submits that Hwang does not anticipate the subject matter of currently amended claim 44. Support for the amendment can be found in paragraphs [0043] and [0045] of the instant specification. Applicant therefore submits

Serial No.: 10/626,253
Amdt. Dated: July 13, 2005
Reply to Office action of May 13, 2005.

RD28667-3

that especially as amended claim 44 recites patentable subject matter. The Applicant thus respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 44 be withdrawn.

35 USC § 103 Rejections

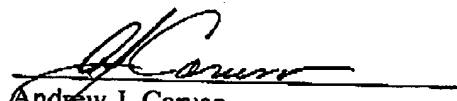
The Examiner rejected 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hwang.

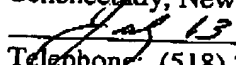
The Applicant urge that currently amended claim 40 is in condition for allowance over Hwang for the reasons discussed above. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 42 and 43, which depend on claim 40, are also in condition for allowance over Hwang.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 32-44 is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,


Andrew J. Caruso
Reg. No. 48,520

General Electric Company
Building K1, Room 3A71
Schenectady, New York 12301
 2005
Telephone: (518) 387-7354